

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

August - September 2010 Newsletter No. 26

## 25 August Visit to the Friends House

Wednesday 25th August, 2pm The Friends House, 631 Orrong Road, Toorak. The Religious Society of Friends had its origin in England in the seventeenth century. In 1843 the first gathering of Quakers was held in Melbourne. Early Quaker families, including the Swinborn family, came to Prahran in the early years of settlement. Sarah Swinborn founded Elizabeth Fry Retreat for ex women prisoners in Argo Street, South Yarra. Hear more about the early history and Quakers in Australia today.

Please call Lorraine 9885 9082.



Elizabeth Fry Retreat 1914 Reg No 7760

## 4 September Visit to Zetta Florence 926 High Street Armadale

Saturday 4th September, 10.30am

Zetta Florence, founded in 1989, has developed a range of stationery, presentation and archival products. They work closely with galleries, museums and assist family researchers who are caring for precious photographs and memorabilia.

Please call Lorraine 9885 9082.



High Street, east of the railway overpass 1915  
Reg No 8772

## 10 October Spring Into Gardening at Victoria Gardens

The Committee would love to hear from anyone who can help for an hour or two at this very popular event. It is held each year in the historic Victoria Gardens, High Street, Prahran.

Both our sales table and displays always attract an interested crowd.

Please call Lorraine 9885 9082.

Any help appreciated!

This is your chance to be actively involved in Stonnington's local history!



Rotunda, Victoria Gardens, undated,  
Reg No 2458

## Community Grants 2010-2011

The Malvern Historical Society is delighted to announce that we have received a City of Stonnington Community Grant to cover the cost of promotional material (including laminating photo enlargements and the design of new children's puzzles), Discovering Stonnington by Bus 2011, the use of Council venues for four meetings and the production of new brochures to add to our Stonnington landmarks series.

## Society News – New Committee Member

Mrs Pat Brincat has recently joined the Malvern Historical Society Committee. A local resident, Pat is actively involved with Girl Guides in the district. We all look forward to working with her.

## Road Rage – 19th Century Style

**Mr. Westwood**, his wife and child were in their four-wheeled vehicle parked near the **George Hotel** in **Chapel Street**, when the cab driver, **William Valentine**, told him to move on (**Westwood** may well have been in the cab stand). **Westwood** refused because he considered there was “enough room, 21 ft, for an omnibus to turn round”. The cabman responded by threatening “to take a spoke out, and, suiting action to the word, deliberately drove up to the vehicle, locked the wheel of his heavy waggonette in the wheel of the vehicle, and cutting shortly off, tore the whole of the spokes of the vehicle from the axle-box, and then drove off.” Fortunately the **Westwoods** were unhurt. Brought before the **Prahran Court** on New Years Eve, the case against **Valentine** was supported by several witnesses, and he was fined £5 or three weeks imprisonment. (Prahran Telegraph, 2 January 1875)

Diane Nicholas

## Full text scans of the Argus on the National Library's Website

The Australian Newspapers service allows access to historic Australian newspapers digitised as part of the national Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program. Researchers are able to search by state, date or title. The link to the full text scans of the Argus, from Friday 15 September 1848 can be found on the National Library's website.

<http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/13>

David Tuck

## Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the **Society** has received enquiries relating to **Winston Private Hospital**, house dating in **Claremont Ave Malvern**, the **Ilton** family – blacksmiths in **Malvern**, choosing house names, quirky stories relating to **Armadale**, the **Treyvaud** family, **Royce Charles Curtis Weir**, **Charles L Weir**, **Toorak Motors (Hosken's Service Station)** and the **Wood** family, **Quakers**, who were friends of the **Swinborns** of the **Elizabeth Fry Centre for Women**. We have been asked about **Central Park Road**, the **Pooley** family, **Coonil Estate**, **Righetti** family, **Quong-Duong** in **Burke Road** and **Fincham** organs in **Stonnington**. We were not able to help with the enquiry relating to the **Malvern** infant/junior school in 1895; it turned out to be a school in **Malvern England!**



Ilton's blacksmith's Elizabeth Street 1880  
Reg No 587

We have been contacted about **F W Bladin** who was contracted to construct the streets of the **Yar Orrong Estate** in July 1918, **John G Heywood**, the **Methodist Church** in **Spring Road**

**Malvern**, the mosaic on the façade of a property in **Ascot Street Malvern**, **Valency** in **Burke Road** and **Dulcie Johnson** who owned her own florist shop in **Malvern** around the late 1930's. An enquiry relating to **Warwick Girls School** in **Finch Street** resulted in a family researcher finding the only existing photo of her mother as a child. Two brick lined structures, thought to be air raid shelters, have recently been unearthed and photographed in local backyards. Special thanks to **Stonnington History Centre's Di, Ellen** and **David** for all the research they undertake.



Valency, Burke Road 1916 Reg No 13915



Righetti family 1939 Reg No 2268

## Alfred William Howitt – The Burke and Wills Expedition

**Alfred William Howitt** explorer, natural scientist and pioneer authority on **Aboriginal** culture was born in **England** in 1830. He travelled with family members to **Melbourne** in 1840. They later enjoyed modest success on the goldfields. **Alfred Howitt** elected to remain in **Melbourne** when the family returned to **England** in 1854. For a time he farmed his uncle's land at **Caulfield** before working as a drover on the **Murray** to **Melbourne** route. In 1859 **Howitt** was sent by a **Melbourne** syndicate to examine the pastoral potential of the **Lake Eyre** region. He found the area drought affected and returned to warn his sponsors. **Howitt** was an obvious choice as a leader when in 1861 the exploration committee of the **Royal Society of Victoria** decided to send an expedition to relieve or, as the worst fears sensed, to rescue **Robert O'Hara Burke, William Wills, John King** and **Charley Gray**. **Howitt's** discharge of this assignment was exemplary. Without blunder or loss he twice led large parties on the long journey to **Cooper's Creek**. He soon found **King**, the only survivor, and took him to a public welcome in **Melbourne** but avoided the limelight for himself.



98 Finch Street East Malvern c 1950 Reg No 2728

Then, at request, he returned to bring the remains of **Burke and Wills** to the capital for interment. For his services **Howitt** was appointed Police Magistrate and Warden of the **Omeo goldfields** and in 1863 began a distinguished career of thirty-eight years as a public official, twenty-six of them as magistrate. In 1889 he became Acting Secretary of Mines and water supply. In 1891 his new home was built at **98 Finch Street East Malvern**, while he was **Secretary of Mines**. In 1895 he became Commissioner of Audit and a member of the **Public Service Board**. He retired in January 1902 on a pension but served on the royal commission which in 1903 examined sites for the seat of government of the **Commonwealth**, and was Chairman of the Royal Commission on the **Victorian coal industry** in 1905-06. After the only illness of his life, he died on 7 March 1908 and was buried at **Bairnsdale**. He was predeceased in 1903 by his wife **Maria Robinson**, daughter of **Judge Benjamin Boothby**, whom he had married in 1864, and was survived by two sons and three daughters.

<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm>

**Burke and Wills:Terra Incognita (free exhibition) State Library of Victoria – until 3 October.**

## History on Display- Westpac Bank, 156 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

There has been great interest in the enlargement of the early tram photo on permanent display in the foyer of the **Westpac Bank**. **Margaret Mee**, Local Bank Manager, worked on the project with the **Malvern Historical Society** and photographer **Peter King**.

The procedure for producing the large, 78 x 47in. (200x 120 cm) acrylic print, started with a high resolution scan of the original being made using a camera and producing a large raw file. This file was converted to a 16 bit, 300 DPI high resolution file in Photoshop. It was about 300MB in size. After some basic retouching of the image, including making the flag on top of the town hall more visible, it was converted to a 30MB jpeg file which was uploaded via the internet, to the lab (**Nulab Imaging**) for printing.

They produced the final print which was a 72 inch inkjet applied to an acrylic base. Many small details can be seen within this high resolution image. It is quite robust and has better archival properties than a normal photograph and should be less likely to fade in the bank's foyer.



Glenferrie Road, Malvern 1910 Reg No 5008



## Taking Local History to the Community

**Jane Nigro** addressed students at **Deakin University** at their recent Cultural and Community Planning Workshop. **The Society** has been represented at the **Stonnington Heritage Reference Group** meeting. The focus was on the revision of **Local Heritage Policy and Guidelines**. The new children's puzzles were distributed widely at the **80th Anniversary** of the **Glen Waverley Railway Steam Train Day**. Special thanks to **Neil Shepherd, Roxanne Dennis, Barry O'Sullivan, Jane Nigro, Lorraine Sage, Heather** and **Samantha Kasa** and **John Sloss**. A group of members enjoyed a fascinating talk and exhibition during our visit to the **Malvern Artists' Society** in July.



Mayor Tim Smith greeting MHS members at the tram Depot celebrations 2010

## Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

Set of Gardiner Central photographs donated by Kyle Joustra.

Detailed research on 13 Central Park Road donated by Joan Hunt.

Photo of Emma Hart and Daisy Wales outside Hart's Confectionery Shop Malvern Road Tooronga donated by Trevor Heart.

Armadale School A Grade Group 1921 donated by James Howe.

History of Tobin Bros Malvern DVD donated by Deborah Penton.

Set of photographs from the 100 Years of the Malvern Depot celebrations donated by Geoff Brown.

Memorabilia including commemorative glass plaque, DVD, medal, beer steins and plates, from the 100 Years of the Malvern Depot celebrations donated by Gerarda Richards, Customer Relations and Marketing Officer Yarra Trams, Malvern Depot and Ron Scholton.

The East Malvern Boys 1945-1965, Ian Roberts. Author, Ian Roberts has donated a copy of his book which includes brief biographies, including oral histories, of 22 boys who lived in the East Malvern area between 1940s - 1970. Also included are brief histories and photos of the Darling Rd. Methodist Church and Cricket Club, East Malvern Football Club and the Ninth Malvern Scout Group (Oak Grove). A collection of associated photos has also been donated.

Photos of Valency donated by Margaret Long



Gardiner Central Education Day  
Folk Dancing 1952



Hart's Confectionery shop

## Welcome New Members!

The Society would like to welcome our latest new member **Michael O'Brien MP**.

### Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Material for the articles has been researched from the **Stonnington Local History Collection**. The database contains over 38,000 records. To view enlargements of photographs and to read more, just go to the website. [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history)

East Malvern  
**Community Bank**® Branch **Bendigo Bank**  
300 Waverley Road, East Malvern. Phone 9563 6044



## Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)

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[www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern)**

The Malvern Historical Society Inc is a member of the Stonnington History Committee, an affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, a member of the South Metro History Group and has been appointed by the Public Record Office of Victoria as a Place of Deposit for non-permanent public records.

### OTHER STONNINGTON HISTORY CONTACTS:

Stonnington History Centre [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history) • Tel 8290 1360

Prahran Historical and Arts Society P.O.Box 8649, Armadale Vic 3143 Tel: 9509 9978 [www.vicnet.net.au/~phas](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~phas)